

goods (results not significant). Similarly, Fig. 5 (b) illustrates that 67% of the designers working for larger firms (sales of over \$US 10 billion per annum) considered the environment in product or process development compared with 50% in smaller firms (results not significant).

4 Conclusions

Product Life (y)	Take Environment Into Account?	
	Yes	No
≤ 20	11	1
> 20	3	3

(a)

Firm's Sales	Take Environment Into Account?	
	Yes	No
≥ 10B \$/y	8	1
< 10B \$/y	6	6

(b)

Fig. 5: Data cross-tabulation correlating (a): product lifetime and willingness to consider environmental information and (b): firm size and willingness to consider environmental information

Evidence of the utilization of life cycle thinking as a minor component of the design process of high tech products was evident across industrial sectors. Ecodesign variables generally focussed on the production (MIPS, emissions), use (energy) or disposal (recyclability) stages of the life cycle with transport and extraction generally ignored. Approximately fifty percent of the designers utilized at least one life cycle impact category in product or process development, although stressors were only considered by approximately one-third of the designers. However, a further 20% reported that they would use additional life cycle impact and stressor information if it were available. The interest to carry out life-cycle based eco design was greater for non-durable products or processes having a design time of less than two years. De-

signers working for larger firms also had access to more environmental information with a preference to electronic data supplemented by printed resources.

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ISLCA Corner

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Dear NEEF Affiliates,

Please note the following activities of the NEEF:

- 1) **REGIONAL CENTRES:** NEEF is planning to open several Centers in each state/region of the country. A couple of such Centres have been initiated recently. The Centre at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh is fully operational and is being coordinated by Dr. Sushma Rajput, Dy. Director, NEEF. We welcome Dr. Rajput to the NEEF family and wish a fruitful, mutual association. Other Centres are being planned in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Assam, Manipur, J&K and many other states. All affiliates of NEEF are encouraged to let us know if they themselves or any individual/organisation they know is interested in running such a Centre in any part of India.
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Comments and suggestions from one and all are welcome.

With warm regards,
Yours sincerely,
Rakesh Kumar, Manager, NEEF

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